



## **AGENDA**

### **Equity Commission**

**New Brighton Public Safety Center; 785 Old Hwy 8 Public Safety  
Upper Level Training Room  
December 14, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.**

Equity Commissioners will attend the meeting in person. Meeting options for members of the public include:

- **Attend the meeting in person:** Attendees who are ill are asked to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters.

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Lindsay Spooner        | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Carlos Herrera     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Kami Miller       | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ellen Weber        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jonas Lim       | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Cathy Forbes       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kristin Lau     | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jason Steffenhagen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kisten Thompson | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Liliana Triviski   |

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**IV. Approval of 11.16.2023 Minutes**

**V. Business Items**

- a. Police-Community Trust Focus Group - Matt Bostrom, Center for Values-Based Initiatives

**VI. Co-Chair Update – Kami Miller**

**VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, DEI Coordinator**

**VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor**

**IX. Adjournment – Next meeting: January 18, 2023**



**MINUTES**  
**New Brighton Equity Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – November 16, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Members Present: Commissioners Cathy Forbes, Carlos Herrera, Kristin Lau, Kami Miller, Lindsay Spooner, and Kisten Thompson.

Members Absent: Commissioners Jonas Lim, Jason Steffenhagen, Liliana Triviski and Ellen Weber.

Also Present: DEI Coordinator Hue Schlieu and Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved 6-0

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Lau to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting.

Approved 6-0

**V. Business Items**

**A. Youth Equity in Schools**

Schlieu stated the Equity Commission expressed an interest in exploring government's role in further equity for young people. Since approximately 3,800 of New Brighton residents are school-aged youth, school administrators were invited to share what school districts are currently doing to elevate equity for their students. It was noted Principal Vichai Saefong was invited to attend this meeting, but was unable to attend.

Chair Spooner commented on the Equity Commission's work plan and discussed how there was a learning portion within the document. She explained the Equity Commission was interested in exploring its role in the private sector and with schools. She noted while Principal Saefong was

unable to attend this evening's meeting but she would still like the Commission to prepare for discussing this topic.

Commissioner Miller stated she was interested in learning more about the formal programs the school district had in place to address diversity and equity, as well as better understanding what resources or staff members were available to students.

Discussion included:

- The Commission was interested in learning what formal DEI curriculum the school district had in place and if this was teacher or student led.
- The Commission wanted to learn more about the accessibility/mobility and class differences between Mounds View and Irondale.
- The Commission supported looking into which kids are struggling in the public school system.
- The Commission suggested looking into wants versus needs when it comes to resources within the schools.
- The Commission was interested in learning its role within the schools.
- It was noted staff could reach out to school board or other administrators if future discussions were needed.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas suggested staff reach out to the equity coordinator within the school district. The Commission supported this recommendation.
- It was noted high school students in the City of New Brighton could be attending St. Anthony, Irondale, Mounds View or Totino Grace.
- Schlieu discussed the ways high school students can engage with the City and suggested the Commission consider other ways students can engage. Schlieu recommended this topic be revisited with Commissioner Triviski.
- The Commission supported a Student DEI group being started at the school.
- The Commission suggested two different sub-groups be formed in order to coordinate efforts on how to work with students in the community, while also exploring the Commission's role within the school district.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas asked what the Commission wants to achieve when trying to intersect with the schools.
- The Commission wanted to learn how the Commission can support or guide the schools.
- The Commission thought it may benefit the Commission to poll New Brighton high school students to see what their voices are saying. Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas reported the school district would have this data.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas suggested the sensory programming available through Park and Rec be made available to school administrators.
- Schlieu commented on how the City may be a great partner with the school district by offering training and education to residents.
- The next steps and role of the Commission was further discussed.
- Chair Spooner asked if there were any Commissioners that were willing to serve in a sub-group. Commissioner Forbes volunteered. It was recommended staff reach out to those not in attendance to see if another Commission member would like to assist with the sub-group work.

## **VI. Chair Update – Lindsay Spooner**

### **A. What have we noticed around the City?**

Chair Spooner thanked everyone for weighing in on the Just Deeds letter. She reported there would be a Just Deeds meeting December 5 via Zoom.

Commissioner Thompson stated November was Native American Heritage Month. She suggested the Equity Commission consider providing historical information regarding Thanksgiving. The Commission supported this recommendation. Further discussion ensued regarding the Native American events that were being hosted in the community and how the Commission can further educate, reach out and interact with the public.

## **VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, Authorizing Commission Liaison**

Schlieu provided the Commission with an update on the City banner program. Three themes moved forward: I Am New Brighton, Multilanguage Welcome, Seasons Greetings. Climate Action Plan PREC meeting Dec. 6. Schlieu shared that the City has received it's Racial Equity Dividends Index (REDI) report. Items that will be pursued soon will be elevated onto the Equity Strategic Action Plan. Schlieu named that recently approved land acknowledgment is currently only listed on the website. Schlieu shared how staff plan to use the land acknowledgment and share with residents moving forward.

## **VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas**

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas provided the Commission an update from the City Council. She stated she participated in a Metro Cities Transportation Policy Committee and advocated for transportation needs for the community. She explained Representative McCullom met with Council and staff to go over federal documents and funding. She reported she attended a Regional Council of Mayors digital equity event in September. She stated the Council recently passed a Resolution requesting MNDOT to put in more sound walls in New Brighton. She commented on the four school board members that were recently elected. She indicated the Council recently approved the Partners In Energy plan and would continue their work on a parking study. She discussed the multicultural drivers education program the City was pursuing and explained the City received \$10,000 in grant funding for this program. She noted the City would be working with Values Based Initiatives on an organizational study for the Public Safety Department. She stated this study would take approximately nine months to complete. She noted the next indoor winter market would be held on December 13 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She reported the City Council would be meeting next on Tuesday, November 28. She invited the public to consider attending the CPY Gala fundraiser on Friday, December 1.

## **IX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: December 14, 2023**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hue Schlieu  
DEI Coordinator



Item: 1
Report Date: 12/6/2023
Commission Meeting Date: 12/14/2023

## REQUEST FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Police-Community Trust Focus Group
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL:
CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:
No comments to supplement this report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments attached <input type="checkbox"/>

**Background:** The New Brighton Department of Public Safety has partnered with the Center for Values to enhance its public safety model, working closely with company president, Dr. Matt Bostrom. One of the foundational objectives is to increase mutual trust through the intentional inclusion of community and staff recommendations in the staffing and services processes. This effort is being undertaken as part of an effort to continuously improve the New Brighton Department of Public Safety and its delivery of law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency services to the community. Dr. Bostrom's international academic and practical work in this field of study has found that the ability to positively influence long-term trust in departments is the foundation for the delivery of exceptional services.

The Equity Commission is one of four public groups that will be participating in these conversations. The Center for Values-Based Initiatives (CVBI) will also be meeting with Public Safety Commissioners, Faith Partners, high school students, and a resident gathering. Further, three internal groups of Public Safety staff will also be participating in focus group conversations with CVBI the following week as part of this process.

**Task Overview:** The Equity Commission is tasked with:

- Participating in a focus group conversation facilitated by Dr. Matt Bostrom, President of the CVBI, to discuss police-community trust.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Resources:** None

Hue Schlieu  
DEI Coordinator